GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:247
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2008
LTC INCENTIVES FOR NORTH EAST REGION
Deora Shri Milind Murli

Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Ministry of Development for North Eastern Region has a plan to persuade Government officials to use their Leave Travel Concession (LTC) to visit the North Eastern Region as reported in the Indian Express,dated January 12,2008.

(b) If so, the main aim behind this move and the details of the Scheme;

(c) the number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited the NER and their contribution in the development of tourism in NER;

(d) the incentives the Central Government proposes to offer to induce the Government officials to visit the NER;

(e) whether permitting the non-entitled officials to travel by Air by relaxing the guidelines on LTC would produce a desired result; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTRY OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) & (b): The North-East Region is a natural tourist destination with enormous potential in nature,adventure, cultural and religious tourism. However, tourist arrivals in the Region is much below its potential. Since government employees availing LTC form a significant segment of domestic tourists, the Ministry of DONER had organized a National Conclave on the 16th January 2008 on promoting the North-East as a tourist destination to LTC travelers. The Conclave was aimed at creating a positive awareness about the NER so as to promote tourism in the Region. During the Conclave, presentations were made by the State Tourism Departments,the Ministry of Tourism, tour operators, etc. to educate the Central Govt. employees about the tourist spots and amenities in the Region and the promotional measures being offered.

(c): The number of tourists who visited the Region during 2004-2006 is given below:

Year	2004	2005	2006
Domestic	33,95,111	35,18,671	39,57,492
Foreign	39,489	46,466	47,695

Tourist inflow in the Region helps in the development of tourist amenities like hotels,tourist spots, etc.which leads to the creation of income and employment opportunities for the local population.

(d) to (f): Since 2007, the Central Government has permitted its employees the use of private airlines, many of which offer low fares, while availing of LTC, with the proviso that reimbursement would be restricted to the entitled class by train, including Rajdhani/Shatabdi Express. This relaxation in rules is expected to increase the number of LTC travelers to the Region.